GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2868
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2016
Telemedicines Solutions in Health Services
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether owing to the shortage of doctors and hospitals in rural areas of the country the Government has decided to employ telemedicines solutions throughout the rural areas of the country,

(b) whether any pilot programme has been designed by C-DAC to ascertain the efficacy of telemedicines solutions which has been deployed in any village in the country especially in the far off villages with scarce reach of medical diagnostic facilities;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the C-DAC has developed Mobile Tele Oncology System and Mobile Tele Ophthalmology System to enhance diagnostic abilities in these disease domains; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with results achieved so far?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a): Yes. Public health being a state subject, primary responsibility to provide healthcare services to citizens lies with State/UT Governments. However, under National Health Mission (NHM) scheme, support is being provided to States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare system including Telemedicine based on the requirements posed by them in Programme Implementation Plan (PIP).Financial support has been provided to Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tripura during the current financial year for strengthening the Telemedicine infrastructure.
Department of Space is also operating 105 Telemedicine centres across the Country.

(b) & (c): Yes. CDAC is in process of implementation of a Telemedicine project named as DISC (Health) − Mission for Developing Digitally Inclusive and Smart Community with the purpose of Pan India implementation of telemedicine technology by establishing Tele-Consultation Centres (TCC) to reduce the divide pertaining to health services in urban and rural areas.

The overall objective of the DISC project also includes evaluation of the acceptability of telemedicine linkage through TCC between community level and specialist level healthcare setups.

(d) & (e): Yes. Under a Research & Development project funded to C-DAC, following Mobile Tele-Oncology System and Mobile Tele-Ophthalmology System have been developed.

i. Mobile Tele-Oncology Unit "Sanjeevani" was deployed at Malabar Cancer Care Society, Kannur in January 2010. As a part of this initiative, around 369 camps have been conducted, 74901 people have been examined, 6500 disease cases have been identified, 450 cancer cases have been detected, 127 cryo surgeries for initial stage cervical cancer have been done and 241 cases have been referred to specialty hospitals in 46 Panchayats/Municipalities covering population of 24,29,215 people.

ii. Two Mobile Tele-ophthalmology Units "Sunayanam" and "Nayanapadham" were deployed at Regional Institute of Ophthalmology, Trivandrum in 2011 and at District Hospital, Palakkad in November 2012 respectively. In Trivandrum, till July 2016, 562 camps have been conducted, 8628 patients have been examined, 2059 Diabetic retinopathy cases and 1202 Glaucoma cases have been detected and in Palakkad, 251 camps have been conducted, 9050 patients have been examined and 575 Diabetic Retinopathy cases and 26 Glaucoma cases have been identified till March 31, 2016.